

**WEEKLY REPORT**

**April 30, 2008**

**Member Op/Eds**

**Congresswoman Ed Royce** wrote an op/ed for National Review about proliferation and North Korea's work with Syria to build a plutonium-producing reactor. *"Now, we face a similar tune on North Korea's highly-enriched-uranium program. Why let what we think is a problem (uranium) get in the way of what we know is a problem (plutonium)? With that line of reasoning, the danger becomes the possibility that North Korea gets financial rewards and political concessions for one part of its nuclear program, only to confirm later that proliferation and highly enriched uranium efforts are ongoing,"* wrote Royce.

**Congressman John Shadegg** wrote an op/ed for the Arizona Republic about taking a free market approach to the country's housing problems. *"...I have introduced the Homeowner Empowerment Act of 2008, which would temporarily allow Americans to tap into retirement plans, without paying penalties or taxes, to make their mortgage payments or the personal mortgage payments of any other individual... This is a free-market response to a serious economic problem facing America. The House Democratic and Senate proposals would use massive quantities of taxpayer money to bail out a small segment of society - out of 55 million outstanding mortgages in the United States, 51 million are being paid on time - that acted imprudently or unethically in many instances. American taxpayers are already strained. They shouldn't be forced to pay for the irresponsibility of others,"* wrote Shadegg.

**Communicator of the Week**  
**Congresswoman Virginia Foxx**  
**drawing attention to the extreme bias**  
**of the Democrats' witness panel in the**  
**Government Reform Committee**

*"One question I'd like to ask you, and I'd like a yes or no answer. If provided evidence that abstinence education programs are as or more effective than comprehensive sex education, would you support optional federal funding for such programs?"*

**Congressman Zach Wamp** wrote a column for the Chattanooga about a sensible approach to addressing energy costs. *"Conservation is sensible and should be promoted, but new capacity and new energy sources are sorely lacking. We need new domestic energy sources, increased refining capacity and a supply of our own oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or the Outer Continental Shelf if our country is to be more energy independent. These new reserves of oil will increase the national supply and make us less dependent on the Middle East. But we can't just drill our way out of the problem, we have to employ an "all the above" strategy with alternative sources as the centerpiece,"* wrote Wamp.

**Congressman Doug Lamborn** penned an op/ed for the Hill about opening the Continental Outer Shelf to drilling. *"We set aside the Outer Continental Shelf to both protect the environment and for a rainy day. Now that rainy day has already arrived, and we can protect the environment with natural gas. If we don't open the Outer Continental Shelf for natural gas exploration, the words of another great philosopher, John Fogerty, come to mind: "I see a bad moon rising / I see trouble on the way,"* quipped Lamborn.

**Chief Deputy Whip Eric Cantor** wrote an op/ed for the National Review about Jimmy Carter's ill advised meeting with the terrorist group Hamas. *"The day after Mr. Carter's meeting with Meshaal, Hamas suicide bombers detonated two explosives-laden vehicles at the Gaza-Israel border crossing, wounding several Israeli troops, whose alertness fortunately staved off potential disaster. Rockets also continued to rain on Israel... Hamas militants, who used gangland-style brutality to expel Fatah from Gaza last year, hide among civilian populations to launch rockets. Once upon a time, an American president named Jimmy Carter negotiated a landmark peace deal between Egypt's Anwar Al Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin. But Khaled Meshaal is no Sadat. This time Carter has made a tragic misjudgment of character and motives. Instead of peace, this meeting only hastens the coming of war,"* wrote Cantor.

## **RSC Special Order on Energy/Gas Prices Tonight**

Tonight, Congressman John Shimkus will host the first RSC Energy School session tonight during the Special Order Hour (first hour after last votes). RSC members are strongly encouraged to participate and discuss America's energy challenges and soaring gas. Two years ago, Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised the American people a "common-sense plan" to lower gas prices. But since the Democrats took control of the House, the Pelosi Premium has risen to \$1.27 a gallon. That's \$1.27 more than consumers paid per gallon less than two years ago. Failure by the Democratic majority to take up real energy legislation has left our nation's natural energy resources untapped. Exploration could yield over 10 billion barrels of crude oil in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, 30 billion barrels offshore, and 1.2 trillion barrels from Rocky Mountain oil shale. Little of these resources can be touched, however, because of the extreme policies of Speaker Pelosi and the Democratic leadership. It is extremely important for RSC Members to talk about common sense solutions to a problem that constituents are forced to deal with on a daily basis. Any Member wishing to have their floor statement placed on RSC TV and emailed through the blogosphere should attend.

## **Morning "One Minute" Participation**

From April 23 thru April 29, 8 RSC Members delivered one-minute speeches. Rep. Ted Poe and Rep. Lynn Westmoreland each spoke twice about energy and gas prices. Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Rep. Scott Garrett, Rep. John Shimkus, Rep. Gresham Barrett and Rep. Virginia Fox all took to the floor to speak about the Pelosi Premium and energy. Rep. Jeff Miller spoke about Israel.

**For more information, please contact Brad Dayspring at x68582**